

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the application.

39. (New) A fusion protein composed of a wild-type IL-15 and an IgG Fc fragment, with the exception of a murine IgG2b Fc fragment.

40. (New) A fusion protein as claimed in claim 39, characterized in that the IgG Fc fragment is a human or murine IgG1, a human IgG2, a murine IgG2a, a human or murine IgG3 or a human IgG4.

41. (New) A fusion protein as claimed in claim 39 which contains an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, and SEQ ID NO:5 or an allelic variant thereof.

42. (New) A nucleic acid which encodes a fusion protein as claimed in claim 39.

43. (New) A nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42 which contains a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, and SEQ ID NO:10 or an allelic variant thereof.

44. (New) A cell which contains at least one nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42.

45. (New) A pharmaceutical which comprises at least one fusion protein as claimed in claim 39, or at least one nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42, and suitable auxiliary substances and/or additives.

46. (New) Method of preventing and/or treating transplantation sequelae and/or autoimmune diseases, wherein a fusion protein as claimed in claim 39 or a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42 is administered to a subject.

47. (New) A process for preparing a fusion protein as claimed in claim 39, comprising the following steps:

- a. Introducing at least one nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42 and/or at least one vector containing at least one nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42 into a cell, and
- b. expressing the nucleic acid under suitable conditions.

48. (New) An *in-vitro* process for preparing a human or animal organospecific tissue and/or a human or animal mammalian organ, comprising the following steps:

- a. Introducing, into at least one stem cell, one precursor cell and/or one immortalized cell of a human or animal organospecific tissue and/or of a human or animal mammalian organ, in the first place at least one nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein, with the fusion protein containing a wild-type IL-15 and an Fc fragment, and/or at least one vector containing at least one said nucleic acid as claimed in claim 42, and, in the second place, at least one suitable differentiation marker gene,
- b. differentiating the cell from step a.,
- c. selecting the differentiated cell from step b., and
- d. introducing the selected cell from step c. into a human or animal organospecific tissue and/or into a human or animal mammalian organ.